

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims so that they read as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A standard for calibrating an instrument consisting essentially of:

- (a) one or more viscosity changing polymers; and
- (b) at least one dye in an amount effective to simulate a known amount of analyte.

Claim 2 (Original): The standard of claim 1, wherein the viscosity changing polymer is a pH responsive polymer, a temperature responsive polymer, or any mixture thereof.

Claim 3 (Original): The standard of claim 2, wherein the viscosity changing polymer is a pH responsive polymer.

Claim 4 (Original): The standard of claim 3, wherein the pH responsive polymer is a liquid at a pH of less than about 4.5.

Claim 5 (Original): The standard of claim 3, wherein the pH responsive polymer is a hydrophobically-modified alkali-swellaable emulsion polymer.

Claim 6 (Original): The standard of claim 5, wherein the hydrophobically-modified alkali-swellaable emulsion is an acrylic carboxylate emulsion polymer.

Claim 28 (Original): A method for calibrating an instrument comprising the step of calibrating the instrument with the standard of claim 1.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 28, wherein the instrument is a spectrometer, multi-well plate reader, or imager.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 17 consisting essentially of:

- (a) mixing one or more viscosity changing polymers and at least one dye; and
- (b) gelling the mixture.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 18 consisting essentially of:

- (a) dispensing one or more viscosity changing polymers and at least one dye into a container to form a mixture; and
- (b) gelling the mixture.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): A standard for calibrating an instrument comprising:

- (a) one or more viscosity changing polymers; and
- (b) at least one dye in an amount effective to simulate a known amount of analyte.